

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 2. (canceled)

1           3. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2       claim 12 wherein in the second screwthread portion and in the third  
3       screwthread portion every 360° several recesses are formed.

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1           4. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2       claim 3 wherein every 360° three recesses are formed.

1           5. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2       claim 12 wherein each recess extends as a chord toward the screw  
3       shank from the cutting edges of the second screwthread portion and  
4       of the third screwthread portion and joins in an arc again the  
5       respective cutting edge.

6 - 8. (canceled)

1           9. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2       claim 12 wherein the second screwthread portion comprises three  
3       turns.

1               10. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2 claim 12 wherein lengths of the cutting edges of the turns of the  
3 second screwthread portion are constant.

11. (canceled)

1               12. (currently amended) A bone screw comprising:  
2               an elongated cylindrical shank having a free end and at  
3 an opposite end a screw head;  
4               a screwthread extending generally helically along the  
5 shank from the free end toward the screw head and itself having  
6               a first screwthread portion extending from the free  
7               end toward the screw head, comprising three  
8               turns, and forming a generally continuous and  
9               smooth cutting edge,  
10              a second screwthread portion extending from the  
11              first portion toward the screw head and formed  
12              of a plurality of turns each formed with at  
13              least one outwardly open recess, the recesses  
14              being of increasing angular dimension away from  
15              the free end, and  
16              a third screwthread portion extending from the  
17              second portion to the screw head and formed of  
18              a plurality of turns each formed with at least  
19              one outwardly open recesses, all of the

20                    recesses of the third portion being of  
21                    generally the same angular dimension.

1                    13. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in  
2                    claim 12 wherein the angular dimension of the recesses of the third  
3                    portion corresponds substantially to the angular dimension of that  
4                    turn of the second portion closest to the third portion.